

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 HA-05 /093 W  
-----031148 190611Z /10

R 180923Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8851  
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 6504

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP, ID  
SUBJECT: PAPUA NEW GUINEAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS INDONESIA

1. SUMMARY: COMMENTS THUS FAR BY PNG EMBASSY AND FOREIGN DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT THE BORDER AND OPM ISSUES PREDOMINATED BILATERAL TALKS DURING FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE'S MAY 14-17 VISIT TO JAKARTA. BOTH SIDES ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THESE TALKS WERE THE MOST SUBSTANTIVE TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR CLOSER COOPERATION. ALTHOUGH THE PNG AND GOI HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO COMMENT PUBLICLY SO FAR ON THE CASE OF THE OUTSPOKEN GOI DIPLOMAT IN PORT MORESBY, THE "SIREGAR INCIDENT" PROBABLY DAMPENED THE ATMOSPHERE. THE VISIT HAS RECEIVED FAVORABLE TREATMENT IN THE INDONESIAN PRESS, ALTHOUGH OLEWALE WAS SUBJECTED TO SOME CLOSE QUESTIONING ON PNG HARBORING OF  
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OPM ELEMENTS. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH WILL BE ISSUED ON MAY 21 FOLLOWING OLEWALE'S TOUR OF OTHER POINTS IN INDONESIA INCLUDING EAST TIMOR, MAY REVEAL MORE ON THE NATURE AND TONE OF THE TALKS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DCM OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEAN EMBASSY, N. DOKO, ON MAY 16 DESCRIBED FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE'S TALKS

AS THE "FIRST SUBSTANTIVE" ONES TO TAKE PLACE WITH THE INDONESIANS, HOLDING OUT THE PROMISE THAT CONCRETE ACTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES. THE PNG GOVERNMENT, DOKO SAID, WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE APPARENT LETHARGY THAT HAD SET IN FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER SOMARE'S VISIT TO JAKARTA IN JANUARY 1977, AND HOPED THAT OLEWALE'S VISIT WOULD RESULT IN A MORE PRODUCTIVE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

3. WHILE THE TALKS WERE ACROSS-THE-BOARD IN NATURE, INCLUDING AN AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE SENDING AGRICULTURAL TRAINEES TO INDONESIA, DOKO GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY CONCENTRATED ON THE BORDER, THE OPM AND POSSIBLY THE SIREGAR AFFAIR. IN DOKO'S VERSION, THE INDONESIAN SIDE RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE BORDER CROSSINGS, STATING IT PREFERRED THAT THIS ISSUE REMAIN A BILATERAL AFFAIR. DOKO SAID THAT OLEWALE WAS NON-COMMITTAL IN HIS RESPONSE, BUT REASSURED THE INDONESIANS THAT, IF THE UNHCR SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED, ADEQUATE RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE PLACED ON ITS MOVEMENTS IN THE BORDER AREA.

4. ON A RELATED POINT, OLEWALE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE PNG COULD NOT AGREE TO AN AUTOMATIC RETURN OF ALL BORDER CROSSERS UNTIL IT HAD A BETTER IDEA OF HOW THEY WOULD BE TREATED UPON THEIR RETURN TO IRIAN JAYA. ACCORDING TO DOKO, THE GOI ACKNOWLEDGED THE CORRECTNESS  
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OF PNG'S HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS, BUT EMPHASIZED THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE AND REITERATED ITS DESIRE THAT ALL BORDER CROSSERS BE RETURNED TO IRIAN JAYA.

5. SIREGAR'S POSSIBLE RECALL, WHILE NOT RAISED IN THE WIDER BILATERAL TALKS, COULD HAVE BEEN TOUCHED UPON DURING OLEWALE'S "FOUR YES ONLY" MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR, DOKO SAID. (NOTE: AN AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF TELLS US THAT REPORTS FROM HIS EMBASSY IN PORT MORESBY SUGGEST THAT THE PNG WAS MORE MIFFED BY SIREGAR'S COMMENTS THAN THE INDONESIANS WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE, AND FELT THAT PART OF THEIR MISUNDERSTANDING REGARDING SIREGAR'S STATUS COULD BE TRACED TO THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR BOESIRI'S LESS THAN FORTHRIGHT POSTURE IN KEEPING JAKARTA ABREAST OF PNG REACTIONS. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST REPORT THE AUSTRALIANS HAVE, SIREGAR WILL LEAVE PORT MORESBY SOME TIME IN SEPTEMBER, WELL BEFORE COMPLETING HIS NORMAL TOUR OF DUTY.)

6. IN A MAY 17 MEETING WITH EMBOFF, FONDEPT DIRECTOR OF PACIFIC AFFAIRS AXIOMA, IN A MORE OPTIMISTIC AND EFFUSE TONE, CHARACTERIZED THE "VERY FRIENDLY" TALKS AS LAYING THE

FOUNDATION FOR MORE FRUITFUL COOPERATION. TALKS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION, HE SAID, RESULTED IN AN EXTENSION OF AN AGREEMENT TO HAVE PNG AGRICULTURAL TRAINEES COME TO INDONESIA, AND AN AGREEMENT TO EXPLORE OTHER AREAS OF POSSIBLE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IN THE CULTURAL DOMAIN, BOTH SIDES SUPPORTED AN EXCHANGE OF NEWS REPORTERS IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE BETTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS FACING EACH COUNTRY. AXIOMA CONFIRMED A NEWS REPORT THAT THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO WORK FOR CLOSER COORDINATION BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM. AXIOMA SAID THE GOI AGREED TO OLEWALE'S REQUEST TO SOUND OUT THE OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS ON THIS QUESTION BUT THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE APPROACH WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF ASEAN'S PREOCCUPATION WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

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7. ON THE BORDER ISSUE, AXIOMA EMPHASIZED THE GOI'S  
"COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEX POLITICAL PROBLEMS

FACING THE PNG FROM OPPOSITION ELEMENTS," AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS ISSUE WOULD BE RESOLVED OVER A MATTER OF TIME. ON HIS OWN, HE RAISED THE OPM'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A "PROVISIONAL CABINET", AND SAID THAT IT WAS A DEAD ISSUE. "EVEN SOME OF THE MEMBERS NAMED ON THE CABINET HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE", HE SAID. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT POSSIBLE UNHCR INVOLVEMENT IN THE BORDER TALKS, HE SAID FLATLY THAT "THAT WAS RAISED BY THE OTHER SIDE, NOT BY US." THE GOI, HE SAID, WOULD PREFER THAT THE TALKS REMAIN BILATERAL, AND HAS SO INFORMED OLEWALE. THE IMPORTANCE TO THE GOI OF THE RETURN OF THE BORDER CROSSERS TO IRIAN JAYA WAS PRIMARILY "PSYCHOLOGICAL." "IF THE BORDER CROSSER RETURNED TO IRIAN JAYA," HE STATE, "IT WOULD SHOW THE WORLD THAT THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY PROBLEM." WHEN FIRST QUERIED, AXIOMA SAID  
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THAT THE SIREGAR INCIDENT WAS NOT DISCUSSED PROVING THAT IT WAS AN ISSUE LARGELY CREATED BY THE PRESS. HE LATER CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN RAISED DURING THE "FOUR EYES ONLY" MEETING, WHICH HE SAID LASTED ALMOST AN HOUR AND HALF.

8. PRESS TREATMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE'S VISIT TO JAKARTA HAS BEEN HEAVY AND LARGELY UPBEAT, ALTHOUGH HE WAS CLOSELY QUESTIONED BY REPORTERS ABOUT ALLEGATIONS THAT PNG WAS HARBORING OPM ELEMENTS. IN A FOLLOW-UP TO AN EARLIER STATEMENT OLEWALE MADE TO THE PRESS THAT THERE WERE NO OPM MEMBERS RESIDING IN PNG, HE SAID BEFORE LEAVING YOGJAKARTA ON MAY 17 THAT NO PNG CITIZENS WERE INVOLVED WITH THE OPM. "THE PNG GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PROTECT THOSE WHO REBEL AGAINST INDONESIA...AND WILL ARREST THOSE ENTERING PNG ILLEGALLY." IN RESPONSE TO PRESSMEN'S RIPOSTE THAT WESTERN JOURNALISTS HAD INTERVIEWED OPM LEADERS IN PNG, OLEWALE INSITED THAT INTERVIEW HAD TAKEN PLACE IN IRIAN JAYA. OLEWALE CHARACTERIZED BORDER PROBLEMS AS MINOR AND LARGELY EXAGGERATED BY THE PRESS.

9. OLEWALE WOULD NOT MAKE A DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON EAST TIMOR UNTIL HE HAS VISITED IT ON MAY 19. THE PRESS DID QUOTE HIM AS SAYING THAT EAST TIMOR WAS INDONESIA'S "INTERNAL AFFAIR", AND AN INSEPARABLE PART OF INDONESIA.

10. FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE'S ITINERARY IN INDONESIA, FOLLOWING HIS DEPARTURE FROM JAKARTA ON MAY 17, INCLUDES ONE-NIGHT STOPS IN YOGJAKARTA, BALI, EAST TIMOR AND JAYAPURA. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, A JOING STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED JUST PRIOR TO OLEWALE'S DEPARTURE FROM JAYAPURA ON MAY 21. AXIOMA HAS PROMISED TO PROVIDE THE

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EMBASSY AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE JOINT STATEMENT ON MAY 19  
WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WHEN RECEIVED.

11. COMMENT. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE BORDER/OPM  
DOMINATED BILATERAL TALKS HERE IN JAKARTA AND WE IMAGINE  
THE SIREGAR INCIDENT WAS ON BOTH PARTY'S MINDS. BOTH SIDES HAVE  
CHOSEN, HOWEVER, TO PUT A GOOD FACE ON THE PRESENT STATE  
OF RELATIONS WITH THE INDONESIANS SEEMING PARTICULARLY  
ANXIOUS TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF BILATERAL HARMONY. THIS  
ATTITUDE ALONE MIGHT PAY SOME DIVIDENDS IN FUTURE  
COOPERATION. WE MAY HAVE FURTHER COMMENT WHEN WE HAVE  
SEEN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** OVIP, ID, PP, (OLEWALE, EBIA)  
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